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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Vol. 1, No. 16. Nov. 21, 2008

Hello to all my OJJ colleagues:

I wanted to give you a heads-up that next week, I will not do a What's Up Doc edition because I will be full of ....turkey and dressing. Gotcha on that, didn't I?

My week has been very busy. Meetings, meetings, and more meetings. We love to meet, and eat don't we? Meetings are a part of good communication, so I know we need them. I try to ensure that we start on time, end on time, and have a plan of action when we leave. Otherwise, we waste our time, which is a valuable resource. Our time is money. Taxpayer's money to be exact. I am sure that as taxpayers, we all want to make sure we are using our resources wisely.

Speaking of resources, I know you have seen and heard that we are headed for some tough budget times ahead. We will be trimming our spending in the near future. A hiring freeze went into effect yesterday, and more will be asked of us as we proceed. OJJ will have to do our share of sacrificing like all the state agencies. Very soon I will be meeting with our executive staff to look for ways we can defer some of our spending, and cut some things we can do without. It's time to put ourselves on a spending diet, and get leaner and more efficient.

Next week is the start of the manic holiday season with Turkey Day. I hope all of you take the time to reflect upon the good things we have in our lives. No matter how challenging life can be, we are all blessed in many different ways. Hug your kids, be patient with your siblings, give respect to your parents if you still have them. Every day is a gift.

Usually we wouldn't think that our OJJ kids are blessed, but I believe they are blessed as well. Even in the situations they are in, they have opportunities to change their lives, and they have good people who care about them. We hope that, and the appropriate services to help them, is enough to turn their lives around.

I am signing off now, looking forward to some rest and relaxation this weekend.

As always, thanks for the work you do every day to meet our mission.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,  
"Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

Office of Juvenile Justice • PO Box 66458 • Baton Rouge, LA 70896 • e: Whatsupdoc?OJJ@la.gov • www.ojd.louisiana.gov